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The Order of Development and Adoption
of Technical Standards for Plastics in the U.S.S.R.

In the Soviet Union industrial standardization and normalization is considered to be of utmost importance to the state. The development of industry proceeding in accordance with a single state plan creates very favorable conditions for thoroughgoing standardization and normalization.

One of the very first decrees of the newly created Soviet republic dealt with "The Introduction of the International Metric System of Measures and Weights". This decree, issued on September 14, 1918, marked the beginning of standardization in the Soviet Union. The main body concerned with questions of standardization in the U.S.S.R. is the Committee of Standards, Measures and Measuring Instruments attached to the Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R.

The Committee of Standards, Measures and Measuring Instruments is headed by a committee of 9 members and consists of the following organizations: Council of Experts, Technical Administration, Administration of Measuring Instruments, Administration of State Supervision of Measures and Measuring Instruments, various branch organizations for industrial standards (fuels, chemistry and petroleum products, metallurgy,

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machine-building, transportation and energetics, electrical technology and communications, lumber and paper, consumer goods, food) and Financial and Economic Administration.

The Committee exercises jurisdiction over research institutes of metrology and standardization, state control laboratories and the State Standards Publishing House ("Standartgiz").

The Committee of Standards is responsible for leading, coördinating and planning all activities in the field of standardization in the U.S.S.R. It is the duty of the Committee to examine and to approve the proposed standards.

The established state standards are binding to all organizations and industrial concerns regardless of their administrative affiliation or geographical location.

At the present time the state standardization embraces only the most important items of industrial production which are characterized by wide distribution and considerable importance in many geographic and industrial areas. The task of state standardization in the field of plastics consists primarily of developing standards for plastic materials. There exist 27 such standards for plastic materials in the Soviet Union at the present time. Most of the industrial output in the field of plastics is produced in accordance with the technical procedures established by the individual Councils of the National Economy ("Sovnarkhoz") after obtaining approval from consumers.

There are about 700 accepted technical procedures for the production of materials and about 600 for the production of finished goods.

Testing methods for production quality in the plastics industry are defined by all-union state standards with the purpose of providing unique quality standards. There are 12 such standards at the present time.

Research in the area of standardization in the Soviet Union is carried out by certain basic organizations of various branches of industry, i.e. by leading research institutes, construction bureaus and leading enterprises of every branch of industry. These organizations are developing proposals for state standards (including those for testing methods), offering conclusions concerning standard proposals made by other organizations, and coordinating and planning standardization activities in their respective industrial areas. The basic standardization organizations of the plastics industry are the research institutes for plastics in Moscow and Leningrad. The work in the field of standardization is financed by a part of the resources appropriated by industrial enterprises for research and by resources appropriated by the state for scientific purposes.

In accordance with the established procedure, all industrial concerns and organizations, i.e. manufacturers and consumers, and research institutes are constantly required to examine the existing standards as to their adequacy with respect

to the requirements of the national economy and to submit to the Committee of Standards suggestions concerning the reexamination of antiquated standards and the creation of standards for new production items.

Every year the Committee of Standards and the Committee for Chemistry attached to the Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R. prepare plans of work in the field of standardization. These plans contain a list of materials and production items requiring reexamination or creation of standards and a list of organizations to which the execution of this work is being delegated. The specifications of standards are, as a rule, drawn up by organizations at the manufacturing level.

The completed proposals for standards are, after approval by the Scientific Councils of institutes, submitted to all interested organizations for evaluation, and, subsequently, these proposals are examined by the Committee of Standards in the presence of representatives of manufacturing and consumer organizations responsible for their preparation and review.

Every year the plans for work in the field of standardization call for reexamination or creation of 5-10 standards for plastics. Reexamination of 5 existing standards and the creation of 7 new standards is planned for 1959.

Publication of standards and of other material concerning standardization is undertaken by the special State Standard Publishing House ("Standardgiz"). This publishing house issues

the "Information Index of Standards" once a month and the "Index of State Standards" once a year.

The monthly scientific and technical periodicals "Standardization" and "Measurement Technique", issued by the Committee of Standards, are devoted to questions of standardization in the Soviet Union.

The Committee of Standards participates in a broad exchange of standards with many countries of the world. In 1957, for example, 15,481 standards were sent abroad and 10,191 standards were received in return.

The plastics industry of the Soviet Union began an especially intensive development during the last few years and more recently its production reached international markets. Representatives of the U.S.S.R. are, therefore, participating in the activities of the International Organization for Standardization—Technical Commission-61 (plastics) since 1956.

Representatives of organizations responsible for the largest share of work in the field of standardization, i.e. members of scientific institutes and of leading industrial concerns, participate in the sessions of the International Organization for Standardization—Technical Commission-61. We hope that in the years to follow the Soviet Union will participate more actively and with greater usefulness in the work of the Technical Committee, International Organization for Standardization—Technical Commission-61.